



THE

KNIGHT



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THE 1621 POLISH 100 DUCAT MEDAL CONTROVERSY BY JONAS K. KARYS

IN MEMORY OF A NOTED LITHUANIAN
NUMISMATIST Stanislovas Algimantas
Janušonis (1937-1983).

From an article by "his old
friend," dated Dec. 19, 1984.

It seems as if it was only yesterday that I saw Stasys (Stanislovas Algimantas Janušonis) hunching down Lenin prospektas in the direction of the Ethnographic Museum. And sadly enough, in the prime of one's life, he unexpectedly passed away one year ago. Janušonis was born in the town of Suvainiškis in the Rokiškis district in 1937. In 1955 he completed studies at the Pandelys secondary school. In 1958, while studying at the University of Vilnius, he joined the staff of the History and Ethnographic Museum as curator. Later in 1961, he moved up in his career, being admitted to the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. From 1967 onwards until his untimely death in 1983, Stasys worked in the economics department of the University of Vilnius. He lectured in economic history as well as giving historians a special course in numismatics. Always eager to upgrade his educational degrees, Janušonis took him to the educational centers of Vilnius, Leningrad, Cracow, and Warsaw. In 1980 he was granted a degree as associate historian for his thesis "Copper Inflation in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania during the Years 1660-1663 and its political-economic impact."

S. Janušonis was primarily researching the Lithuanian monetary system during the 13th-14th centuries. Many of his studies dealt with the mints producing the coins of our nation located in Vilnius, Kaunas, Brastis, Ujazdow, and Oliwa. He often verified or corrected erroneous data concerning dates, number of coins minted (especially the Lithuanian shillings). Janušonis was the first to publicize the discovery of a Lithuanian mint in

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Originally published as "The 'Gold Plates' of Sigismund Vaza" [*Žygimanto Vazos 'Auksinės Lėkštelės'*] in *Aidai* No. 8, 1962, and reprinted in *Numizmatika* (1970), pp. 241-250.

TRANSLATED BY VAL MATELIS

(Footnotes appear at the end of the article, on pg.)

None of the rulers of historic Lithuania struck as many gold coins as did Sigismund Vaza, King of Poland, and also Grand Duke of Lithuania (1587-1632). Further, his gold coins,



ABOVE: 1621 100 ducat medal

some struck in the money mints of Poland, others in Vilnius for the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as well as those of a "mixed nature" (equally suitable for circulation in both of the united states), distinguished themselves in beauty, and the rarely achieved artistic engraving for those times. Vaza also struck smaller gold pieces, such as predominated in the era of his predecessors Sigismund August and Stephen Batory. However, the largest coins valued at 10 ducats, the "Portugalers," put all these others to shame.

The bulk of these struck gold coins would seem to indicate that at the beginning of the 17th century, the Polish and Lithuanian states were firmly established economically. But that would be a pure illusion. True, nothing was wanting to the ruler's manor, to the boyars, to the prominent merchants, and leading officials. But the masses of the people, city dwellers and peasants, burdened heavily with various taxes, suffered grievously and to speak of nothing else, fed upon bread made of chaff, leaves, and nettles...an unending series of wars, like a chain, proceeded with the Swedes, with Moscow, with the Cossacks from beyond the Dnieper, and the Turks, which consumed the farm products of the joint states. The excesses of the boyars, the religious wars between the Catholics, Protestants, and the Orthodox; the frequent famines, the arbitrariness of its own as well as foreign armies¹, held the Republic's internal economy in a paralysis. The economy of serfdom returned to the state's treasury only "starvation receipts," or as much as could be snatched from empty stomachs. And those who could pay taxes, would easily avoid them. And that same "state treasury," was just beginning in the days of Sigismund Vaza to separate itself from the older, personal coffers of the ruler, and as was cus-

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2. MEDAL

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tomary, it had holes through which quite a bit of funds leaked out, far and away--not for important governmental purposes, but for personal needs of the rulers.

However, the vain, glorious, prideful Vaza was unable to reconcile himself to the harsh realities of life. He was less able to analyze it, or to adjust to it. Sitting on two thrones, a pretended one (third) in Sweden,² and dreaming of a fourth in Moscow, he surely did not give a thought to the gold which could have been so much better utilized within the land, or abroad, rather than the personal aggrandizement of the ruler.

In addition to an entire series of valuable gold coins (which never came close to circulation in an economy of such low stature), seemingly to commemorate the portrait of Sigismund Vaza, his titles and "quality," he dissipated precious metals to strike medals, large beyond measure and necessity. His "gold plates" of contemporary value of 30, 40, 50, 60, even 100 ducats (or otherwise evaluated) equalled and surpassed those of other, wealthier countries. And if that wasn't enough! From the beginning of his coronation in Poland until his death, over 45 years, this Vaza issued more than a hundred medals of various types (not to speak of a series of Swedish items), whether there was some occasion minimally justifying such a venture or whether in fact there was no such excuse.

Other than gold medals, Sigismund Vaza issued a goodly number of silver 3 1/2, 4, 5, and 6 talers, true or unreal value disks which have been tracked down, studied, and as well known as the gold ones. It would follow that it would be a rare ruler of any other historical nation who could equal in the sphere of medallic issuance, Sigismund Vaza; and perhaps, no one at all. Now what could we say in behalf of Vaza in this matter? Perhaps this: he did not accumulate gold metal, nor did he conserve funds when hiring the best specialists. The majority of his medals are truly well struck, and of some, the artistic finish amazes even the most experienced specialists today, after three and a half centuries!

The most outstanding medal [notice in this entire discourse, Karys will not call these items coins, but medals] of



100 gold ducat/medal Reverse.

Sigismund Vaza, and also the model of the medallic art of that era of Poland was and remains today the very largest "gold plate" struck in 1621. It is almost pure gold, weighs about 350 grams, with a diameter of about 70 mm. On the obverse appears the portrait of Sigismund Vaza. The bust is profiled to the right, encircled with the Latin inscription: "SIGISMUNDUS III D.G. POLONIAE ET SVETICAE REX" meaning, "Sigismund III, by the Grace of God, King of Poland and Sweden." His elegant uniform and the Order of the Golden Fleece (de la toison d'or) is developed to the smallest detail. On the crown of the "Kukard," on the Order's over-the-shoulder ribbon, and on the left at the belt (three times) the date "1621" is found, and the initials "SA" are placed at the bottom. The entire field, including the portrait and the legend, is circumscribed with a belt of double lines and further, a broad string of leaves.

On the reverse, we see a shield of nine parts, with the Polish-Lithuanian, Swedish, and Vaza family (in the very center) signs of distinction (coats-of-arms). Around the shield are elegant ornaments with parrots at the sides and an angel's head at the bottom.

Among these frets are interspersed letters and dates: JJ-VL, 16-21, SA, SA. All this is surrounded by the side chain of that same Order, and finished off with a regal crown, above which--once again, the date, "1621." The Latin inscription recounts other, lower titles of Sigismund Vaza: "Magnus Dux Lituan, Russ, Pruss, Mas, Sam, Livon, Zc." The field is finished off by three and two lines, and the very last--a garland of leaves.

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1545 No Poland 1 grašis

3.

This month we'd like to feature a very special and rare item: The "No-Poland" 1 grašis silver coin of 1545! It is extremely rare; we know of only 2 in existence: one in a private Lithuanian collection (the one illustrated here), and the other in a Polish collection.

This coin was minted at the newly re-instated Vilnius mint, which opened on October 14, 1545. The obverse features the bust of Grand Duke of Lithuania, Sigismund August, who ruled as Grand Duke from 1544 to 1572. SA also became King of Poland in 1548.

The obverse legend reads, "SIGISMUND AUG REX M D L," meaning, "Sigismund August, King, Grand Duke of Lithuania." Notice: NO POLAND! Sigismund didn't officially become King of Poland until 1548, which leads us to believe that this is one of the first 1 grašis coins minted, since other grašis coins did include the "Pol" on them, which are dated 1545. For example, see Hutten-Czapski Vol. III No. 5663. Perhaps when preparing the dies for the "new" Vilnius minting operations, the minter prepared this as his first version with "legalities" in mind; hence, no Poland. And of course it was quite apparent that SA definitely wanted his full and intended title on the coins, which is why this special version we are featuring didn't last long.

The reverse inscription reads, "MONETA MAG D LITVANI," meaning, "A coin of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania." Again, no Poland. This is a Lithuanian coin, Lithuanian coin standard, minted in Lithuania, before the 1569 Lublin Union. This is why rulers of Lithuania should always be listed as "Grand Dukes," and not "King of Poland," because in this case the reigning years were different. The date "15-45" is separated by the Columns of Gediminas emblem, which in this case is not surrounded by an ornamental shield.

This particular coin illustrated on the right is 24 mm. in diameter, and weighs 2.3 gr., which is close to the normal superior Lithuanian coin standard (20% better than the Polish). Czapski's No. 5663 bears the same "Sigismund" legend on the reverse, which of course elevates the ruler at the expense of "A Coin of the..." legend. That specimen however, weighs only 1.790 gr., which puts it even below the average Polish standard level. The coin we feature here is definitely different from Hutten-Czapski's or even J. Liškevičius' collection.



We wonder about the circumstances surrounding this coin. Did the Poles, outraged at the lack of the name of their country, have these destroyed, and this is the remaining one?

In any case, this particular "all Lithuanian" coin is certainly one of the "greats" in Lithuanian numismatics!

4. 1621 MEDAL

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This beautiful medal was struck in the Polish money mint at Bromberg (Bydgość). Although in those days an accurate register was not kept, we find that certain initials on the medal itself are informative. The letters JS:VA on the reverse here means Jacob Jacobson of Lunden, the holder and chief administrator of that mint from 1617³. The engraving work was prepared by the famous Danzig medallist/engraver Samuel Ammon. His initials, "SA," are repeated three times on the medal. That same person had been preparing dies for Sigismund Vasa in the past, and was accustomed to the client and his desires. True, S. Ammon's previous work had been splendid, but in this medal he really surpassed himself as a medallist.

Some Polish scholars (for example, Sierczynski) have supposed that the subject medal was struck to commemorate the battle of Onocimo.⁴ But except for the date repeated several times, there is nothing on the medal itself even by implication relating to that battle. As in many of Vasa's medals--a specific basis for its production is not stated, or else, the answer to the riddle has been lost. And the concurrence of the date does not signify too much, since many other incidents occurred in that same year. Finally, if this medal had been issued in relation to Onocimo, then on what occasions did other anonymous medals of Sigismund Vasa appear?

The prominent Polish numismatist, Dr. Marian Gumowski, believes that the large Vasa medals were struck with the desire to maintain in the country in that form, the most precious metals. He contends that the same motive was at work here as in other times, certain German districts (e.g. Lueneburg, Brunswick, etc), pursuing mercantile goals, would have their princes strike large silver medals in the multiple taler range, and by special edicts, force their people to buy them and hold them.⁵

However, Sigismund Vasa, as we know from other sources, did not consciously espouse such ideas. He struck only a few each of his medals, hardly exceeding the teens (for himself, the royal treasurer, and only for the highest dignitaries),⁶ and no edict of Vasa, ordering that his medals be acquired and kept, is known. Therefore, this theory of Gumowski lacks conviction.

Deep numismatic studies, long examination of Sigismund Vasa's era of the Polish-Lithuanian economy, history, and through these and based on these, an objective scrutiny of Vasa's personality supplies us with a firm foundation to believe that most of this ruler's "gold plates" came from the mint because of very ordinary motives, purely personal to Vasa: to have his portrait, his uniform, the

great Order (whose membership list contained barely 52 names--all rulers!), and to have all his titles memorialized in precious metal. Such "monuments," founded upon similar personal reasoning can be found in the past; not only in Poland...

Although it may seem strange, we still find among those fostering Polish culture, some who find a specific needle in the boyar "Rzeczpospolita" haystack, immediately grasp it to build a tower out of it. This is what happened to the largest medal of the Polish King Vasa. Here, Janina Wierzbowska, writing in the journal Poland (No. 2, 1961) of the millennial jubilee of Poland's coins, described (naturally, without all the details given here) and pictured the medal considered above, terming it the "gold 100 ducat coin."⁷ That is: look, everybody, what coins Poland has had! And a group of Poles, with whom there was reason to discuss monetary matters occasionally, with no further explanation, proudly replied "tak" (yes).

Several Lithuanians, interested in antiquity and residing in the U.S. and Canada, hearing of this coin, wrote me letters, offering suggestions and inquiring for "expert" advice in reply. Was it only the Poles in the 17th century who possessed such large coins, while Lithuania--had none? Why, both nations were joined together, and did not one ruler govern both states?⁸

In reply to everyone, both Lithuanians and the Poles, neither the Polish kingdom nor the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, nor the 16th-18th centuries "Rzeczpospolita" ever had coins larger than 10 ducats in value, or struck any such. The "gold plate" of Sigismund Vasa discussed here, as well as the other larger gold pieces (or the silvers larger than the value of one taler) at the time of their production did not meet the requirements of coinage at the time, nor the government regulations. Therefore, these were medals, are medals, and will always continue to be medals.⁹ Because:

1. Long before Sigismund Vasa, traditional usage and operating regulations of the Polish Kingdom and Lithuania's Grand Duchy basically required these inscriptions on coins: "MONETA REGNI POLONIAE" and "MONETA REGNI DUCATUS LITUANIAE." Who can see any similar inscription upon the "100 ducat coin?"

2. Upon the regular and genuine gold coins of Sigismund August, Stephan Bathory, and of that same Sigismund Vasa, we find inscribed: "MONETA AUREA REGNI POLONIAE" or "MONETA AUREA M.D. LITUANIAE" upon the smaller golds; "MONETA NOVE AUREA" upon the smaller denominations, of which the largest is the 10 floren or ducat standard value (called after the similar larger Portugalers--Polish Portugalers, or Lithuanian Portugalers). Who will find such or similar inscriptions upon this "100 ducat coin" of Wierzbowski?

3. For the benefit of the holders, regular coins carry on them inscriptions in figures (III, V, 10, or X) either on their obverse or reverse side. Who can spy such a legend upon the circles of Sigismund Vasa (or many other such)?¹⁰

4. Beginning with Sigismund the Old's grandfather (1535), the ruler of the Grand Duchy would always inscribe his coins as follows: XX King of Poland, Grand

Duke of Lithuania. Rather, Sigismund Vaza has inscribed upon his "gold plates" (and other medals) only: King of Poland and Sweden. Such inscriptions are neither fitting for medals, or even actual coins, since it contradicts reality and the truth. And only on the reverse, among the titles of secondary rank, does he recall that he is also Grand Duke of Lithuania.

5. No mintmark showing the official of the Lithuanian State (normally, the treasurer) is to be found on Vaza's "plate," as was expected upon all genuine and legitimate coins of the Grand Duchy.¹¹

It therefore follows, as we assert, that Sigismund Vaza's "gold plates" (and other circlets of precious metal) are not coins, but medals, and proven beyond a doubt. There remains just one more essential question: to which nation do these medals pertain?

Both Sigismund Vaza's titles on the obverse side are foreign to Lithuania. As we have noted, here he accented that he was the mightiest leader of Poland and Sweden. The title of Lithuania's ruler, equal to that of Poland and to that of the states he selected, and, as politically estimable, Vaza consciously traded for one which since 1600, he did not have. With such a turn, Vaza insulted the Lithuanian nation! Even more, he slapped her face. He placed the title of Lithuania's Grand Duke on the reverse side, where he named the dependent provinces held jointly by Poland and Lithuania by demeaning the Grand Duchy, according to the inscriptions, from the equal to Poland, into the level of a province of the "King of Poland and Sweden;" a province equal to Prussia and Livonia, held jointly by Poland and Lithuania, or the Polish Masuria and even Samogitia... And the Order of which Vaza was so proud, and which he repeated on the reverse side of the medal, is of German (Napsburg) origin.¹²

Even the Vytis emblem does not speak too much of Lithuania upon this medal. Back in the days of the Jogaila dynasty, the custom was to join in one section the emblems of Poland and Lithuania. In the days of Bathory, they were doubled: on a shield divided into 4 parts, the white Eagle and the Vytis were repeated twice (to emphasize equality--on one instance the Polish emblem was in the "ranking place," in another, the Lithuanian emblem was ranked). In the very center of these four fields, Bathory placed his small family ensign, without overshadowing the national emblems. Sigismund Vaza, "King of Poland and Sweden," "reformed" this combined national symbol upon his gold plates, to please his own taste. Both of the right fields ("left" according to heraldry) he filled with Swedish ensigns, relegating the Lithuanian Vytis into the penultimate position. The Vaza family "sneak" was in the center---a move to be expected. But in the medal under discussion (and elsewhere), Sigismund Vaza actually devastated the coat-of-

5. arms of the joint Polish-Lithuanian state in use before him, by covering it with expanded Swedish national and his own family arms. It is impossible to see an entire Vytis on either the obverse or reverse field.

All this, as explained and should now be clear, supplies us with an unequivocal basis for conviction, that the large medal previously described and pictured of Vaza, does not belong in the category of antiquities, commemoratives of the Lithuanian nation.

So, to the Poles (and even to Swedish romanticists who have not forgotten the famous son of their King John III), there is a written testament from Sigismund Vaza. That ruler, though in his veins flowed not entirely foreign blood, but mixed with Lithuanian, left a patrimony in which the Lithuanian nation can neither take pride, nor pleasure, now, or ever.

[Editor's comment: This editor has held this 1621 item in his hands, and as Karys has commented, it is beautiful.]

FOOTNOTES

1. From a letter of the Chancellor L. Sapiega to Jonušas Kadvilas of August 7, 1610, quoted in Lithuanian Historical Sources I, Vilnius, 1955, p. 237: "A peasant goes to his field to plow with a miserable ox. A soldier jumps off his steed, takes the ox. Or, a farmer sets out to plant oats, barley or wheat, and a soldier takes the seed out of the wagon..."

2. As the son of King John III (and Katheryn Jogaila--daughter of Sigismund the Elder and Bona Sforza), he had inherited the throne of Sweden upon his father's death; however, the Parliament of that country, meeting at Linköping in 1600, dismissed him from that throne. Nevertheless, he proclaimed himself widely with that title until his death...

3. During the period 1623-27, that same Jacobson held (rented) the Lithuanian Grand Duchy money mint in Vilnius.

4. Chotin, Hotin, Chocim--a small town in Bessarabia. In the fall of 1621, an army of Polish-Lithuanians, led by Grand Hetman John Karol Katkevičius of the Grand Duchy, in the vicinity of that town, encountered and defeated a Turkish army three times their size. Sultan Osman II was compelled to seek peace. The heroic Katkevičius, unfortunately, died on the field of battle.

5. Dr. Marian Gumowski, Medals Zygmunt III, Cracow, 1924, p. 97.

6. From a letter dated 2/26/62 from the Museum Narodowe w Warszawie to this writer. There are only 4 known specimens of the largest Vaza medal known today, of which 2 are in Poland (in the Vavely Museum and the Czapski Museum), the third is kept in the Vienna Art Museum's numismatic collection, while the fourth was in the collection of King Farouk of Egypt (passing to a London owner after the Farouk auction at a cost of 845 pounds sterling). [Note: this last specimen is here in the U.S. and sold for

Continued on next page....

6. MEDAL

Con't from pg 5.

\$120,000 at the stock sale of September, 1930.]

7. It would seem that spurred by an incurable romanticism, Wierzbowska grasped rashly at another means of elevating historical Poland. However, no printed word can make black into white, or of a medal into a coin.

8. I hold this as a reaction to my notation in my volume, "Ancient Lithuanian Currencies" (1959) p. 332: "Rumors of Sigismund Vaza's gold coin in the amount of 100 ducats are not confirmed." They truly are not confirmed! Naturally, within the bounds of my theme, in that reply I had in mind the coins issued by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, but the notation equally applies to Poland.

9. A general description of a medal can be found in any encyclopedia. As regards this disk (for Wierzbowski's information), it was held to be a medal even by the famous Polish numismatist-scholar Dr. Gumowski (See his Medale Sigismund III #79). And in the well known catalogues of E. Hutton-Czapski, they are registered as medals (this largest in the III Volume).

10. If there is impressed upon such an abnormal sized striking a numeral of one kind or other (for example, Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and later, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, placed "100" upon his medal of 1629), what this meant essentially was not an aggregate of the country's monetary units, but the weight of the gold in a form internationally accepted and recognized: 1 ducat equals 3.5 gr, 23.5 carat fineness. 100 ducats would have weighed 350 gr. of that same gold, etc.

11. For example, on the Grand Duchy's coin ("Portugaler") of the same Sigismund Vaza, in the amount of 10 gold ducats, we find on the reverse side (below the insignia and above the figure "X" --ten), the double edge arrow which was the symbol of Lithuania's Treasurer Jerome (Hieronym) Valavičius. And other treasurers earmarked the coins of their country (as much in Lithuania as in Poland). Where is such a mintmark on Wierzbowski's "100 ducat gold coin of Poland," to whose "demonetization" we had to waste so much valuable time?

12. For more detail concerning this order, see M. Grissner, Handbuch der Ritter- u Verdienstorden aller Kulturstaaten der Welt, Leipzig, 1893, pp. 261-265.

We hope you have enjoyed this special article. Be sure to pass on a copy to your Polish collector friends...

JANUŠONIS

Continued from page 1

Marienburg. Among favorite topics he often detailed the circulation of the Prague grašiai in Lithuania during the 14th-16th centuries, as well as the 16th century Lithuanian grašis coins. A study accredited to him should be herewith noted, "Unknown data pertaining to the Mintage of Copper Billings in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania during the Inflationary Period of 1663-1667," (published in the Annals of Lithuanian History, in 1974 by the Vaga Publishing House in Vilnius). It is presently being translated and will appear in the Polish scholarly press.

Probably the one thing that singles out Janušonis among others is his research, in that he was very professional and accurate, which is very rare. Most historians are still amateurs in the field of numismatics. Stasys, on the contrary, was an exception. He knew his political and economic history. Janušonis was also very knowledgeable about Lithuanian heraldry. Among his 20 unfinished manuscripts, special note should be made to his dictionary of Lithuanian numismatic terminology. A true scholar, Stasys was always well prepared for his lectures at school and enkindled active discussion and interest among students.

We buried Stasys last year at the Karveliškiai cemetery in Vilnius. However, the memory and friendship of Stanislovas Algimantas Janušonis remains in the hearts of his colleagues, historians, and students.

LETTERS

In your June-July 1984 issue on page 6, the letter writer refers to Roman Emperor Volusian as being in the 5th century. This is incorrect. He was the son, and "co-emperor" of the 3rd Century. --J.R. Greene, Mass.

In the interesting article about Adomas Varnas in The Knight August-September 1984, we are asked for further information as to the firm name of the printing office in Prague--G. Haase. I once had a coin-change connection there, whom I now asked to search for the meaning of the "G." He recently answered me, and after the information he has got from a banknote collector, he says the G. stands for GEBRUDER, which is the German word for Brothers. How far this explanation is in accordance with the truth, I cannot say, but I give it to you, as I have received it! --Tyge Sondergaard, Denmark.

[Note: O.K. If "G" stands for "brothers," then what were the brothers names?...]

ADS

Lets keep this section active!

WANTED: Lithuanian banknotes, revenue stamps, view postcards, history books on Lithuania in English (except 700 Years). J.R. Greene, 33 Bearsden Road, Athol, Mass 01331.

Wanted: Ostland PUNNET notes for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and WL in Nord (White Russia). I also can trade some duplicates from Estonia. John P. Witter, Satomaki Salpa 23, 01370 Vantaa 37, FINLAND.

want-for sale ads are FREE to non-commercial LNA members! Send us your ad so we can put it in the next issue!

Lithuanian Lodge Tokens of Chicago

In our early issues of The knight, we presented in serial form a listing of the Lithuanian-American lodge tokens of Chicago, circa World War I. Subsequently, this editor wrote a lengthy article about these tokens and the histories of the issuing societies, entitled, "Litnuanian-American Lodge Tokens of Chicago," which appeared in the May, 1981 issue of The Numismatist, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association. Copies of this are still available for \$2.50 by writing The Numismatist, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Since these are Chicago tokens, they also fall under the catagory of Illinois trade tokens. In 1983, Illinois token expert, Ore H. Vacketta, Sr., published his second edition (hard-cover) of Trade Tokens of Illinois, a 550 page book listing all known Illinois tokens, including the Chicago Lithuanian tokens. This editor supplied Mr. Vacketta with the Lithuanian token information.

we are presenting here a "re-listing" of the Lithuanian-American lodge tokens of Chicago,, giving this author's catalog numbers as appeared in The Numismatist, and the numbers assigned by Mr. Vacketta in his book. In adadition, a few new ones are added at the end. All Litnuanian tokens (with just a couple of exceptions) have an R-6, Extremely Rare (1 to 5 known) rating, which Vacketta values at over \$5 apiece in value (today would be around \$8-\$10). R-5 means 5 to 10 are known, with \$3 to \$5 value.



Above: P-12, United Litnuanian Societies token, 5c.



Above: Vacketta No. K40 A 21 R Vincas Kudirka

Theatrical Society token, illustrated on pg. 228 of Mr. Vacketta's book. This token was previously unknown to us.

Mr. Vacketta's "code" for identification is as follows (example): DA30 B 24 8. First figure: token identification number for Chicago. Second letter: metal--B=bronze; A=Aluminum; C=Copper. Third numeral: size in millimeters. Fourth figure: shape of token--OB=oblong; OV=oval; R=Round; S=Scalloped; X=odd. When a number is given, this denotes the number of edges. Thus an 8 would be an 8-sided token.

Mr. Vacketta's book is an excellent resource book, and we suggest you get a copy. Price is \$30 each (plus p & H). Write: Ore H. Vacketta, 426 S. State St., Westville, Illinois 61883.

Passic No.	Vacketta Nos.	Name of Society	Face Value	Comments (Passic Nos.)
1.	DD30 A 26 R	Society of St. George the Knight	5c	2. This token has crossed ovals and is actually 25 mm. at its smallest point, not 15 mm. as stated. (It was misprinted in <u>The Numismatist</u> listing) 3. Vacketta omitted the 10c 15. Tokens also issued in denominations of 5c, 25c, 75c, and \$1.00. 18-20. Note: 3 varieties, see article. Vacketta lists these as R-4 (10-20 known). 24-26. Vacketta in the description has legend reading "T.M.D." instead of "T.M.L." (misprint error) 20. R-5. [30] pictured above left.
2.	DB28 A 15 4S	Society of Saint Stephen	5c	
3.	DC30 A 26 R	Society of St. Michael the Archangel	5c	
4.	DE30 A 25 8	Society of All Saints	5c	
5.	KB 35 A 25 R	Knights of Lith. King Mindaugas	5c	
6.	DF30 A 26 R	Society of Saint Prince Casimir	5c	
7.	SC07 A 25 R	St. Casimir Society	5c	
8.	DA28 A 25 R	Society of the Grove of Lithuania	5c	
9.	LB31 A 25 8S	National Guard of Lith. Grand D. Alg.	5c	
10.	SA07 A 25 8S	Saint Domininks Society	5c	
11.	DG30 A 26 R	Society of St. Stanislaus Bishop	5c	
12.	SL48 A 25 R	United Lithuanian Societies	5c	
13.	JB30 B 25 R	Soc. of Litnuanian King Mindaugas	5c	
14.	PA89 B 21 R	Providence of God Society	5c	
15.	DD20-10 B 27 8	Grand Duke Gediminas Society	10c	
16.	DD20-50 B 27 0	" " " "	50c	
17.	DG20 B 27 0	Society of Bro. & Sis. of Litnuania	5c	
18-20.	SE07 B 23 4	St. Martins Society	5c	
21.	LA31 A 25 R	Lith. Theatrical Soc. of St. Martin	-	

8. THE KNIGHT Volume 7, No. 5, issue No. 41. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Rassic, Albion, Michigan Editor. Robert J. Jouchis, Columbia MD, Director. Subscription/Membership to Volume 7 a donation of \$10 or more for 6 issues. Write: Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, Maryland 21045. The LNA is a member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903.

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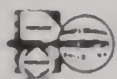
ADVERTISING RATES: Full page \$30. 3/4 page: \$25. 1/2 page: \$20. 1/4 page \$10. Business card insertion: \$5., or 6 issues for \$25 (save \$5). Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045.

Our apologies for the upside down photograph on our feature of the month (page 3) of our last issue. The top photo of the three Ost-kopecs contained nearly all Cyrillic lettering, and of course it was hard for our American printer to place the photo in the right way.

What's up in Lithuanian numismatics? What have you added to your collection lately? We'd like to know! We'd appreciate receiving letters of comments, plus especially some more want/for sale ads. We are an association, and it takes members in order to associate!

We solicit your: articles, news, information, and anything else on Lithuanian numismatics, such as one member sent us information (right) on the 3 Ost-rubel note.

(PAID AD--how about one from you?)



Dealer in Quality Rare Coins
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WRITE:

Karl Stephens, Inc.

Karl Stephens
President

P.O. BOX 555
COLUMBIA, MD 21045

ANA 57209
213 445 8154

Tokens

Continued from last page....

Rassic Vacketta Nos. No.	Name of Society	Face Value
22. DC28 B 24 4S	St. Roch's Mutual Benefit Society	5c
23. DA30 B 24 8	Our Lady of Vilnius of the Dawn Gate	5c
24. TC27-5 B 25 R	Lovers of the Fatherland Litn. Society	5c
25. TC27-10 A 24 8	" " " " " "	10c
26. TC27-25 B 25 8S	" " " " " "	25c
27. LA36 B 25 8	Lithuanian National Society	5c
28. B120 A 24 R	Butvill (Butvilas) Tavern	10c
29. MC47 B 25 8	women's Society of the Dawn Gate	5c
-- DA30 B 26 8	"D.S.T.V." (Dr. Szventy Tes Visy)	5c
-- K40 A 21 R	Vincas Kudirka Theatrical Society	5c
-- [--B 25 R]	Lith-American Republican League	5c
-- [--A 24 R]	"DR-JOS LIETUVOS UKININKAS CHICAGO, ILL"	5c
	(Society of young Lithuanian Farmers)	
-- [--B 18 6]	LITHUANIA/SONS/AND/DAUGHTERS/HALL	5c

We would appreciate any reader having any different Lithuanian tokens from Chicago (or anywhere else, for that matter) sending us a photo or rubbing of it, and information, so we can mention it in The Knight.

3 OSTRUBEL UPDATE



We are happy to report to you the discovery of a "new" serial letter for the 3 Ost-rubel note of the Darlehnskasse Ost, Pick # F-R123. It is serial letter L which previously has been unreported to us. The copy above was submitted to us by LNA member Jerome Norton, who furnished us with the information.

Here is our current "running compilation" of known serial letters for the 3 Ost-rubel note, dated April 17, 1916:

Type A: A B C D E F G

Type B: H K L M N O P Q R S T U V W

If you have any "new" letters (such as an I or X), let us know, and send us a photocopy! From the looks of it nowever, it seems we have just about completed our little project. A big thank you to all of you who have helped us compile this information!